

Special event to mark Africa Day 2026



Adults and children at Áras an Chontae, Roscommon at the launch of plans for Africa Day. Pictures: Gerard O'Loughlin

Plans for this year's Africa Day in County Roscommon were officially launched at a special reception in Áras an Chontae, Roscommon, last week.

The official theme for Africa Day this year is 'Justice for Africans and People of African Descent'.

Once again, this year's Africa Day is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is supported locally by the Roscommon Women's Network (RWN) and Castlereagh Family Resource Centre (CFRC).

In County Roscommon, a particular high-

light will be on this Saturday, May 23rd, at the Trinity Arts Centre, Castlereagh from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. where an extensive range of family-friendly events will take place.

On the day, attendees will experience the rhythms of the continent with traditional African music, energetic dance showcases, and engaging storytelling. Participants can also savour the flavours of Africa with a feast of authentic African food.

This year's Africa Day will also explore the many Irish African connections that currently exist. This includes a shared history of colon-

isation, mutual resilience, and the strong solidarity shown through Irish Aid.

Formally launching this year's celebration, Leas Cathaoirleach of Roscommon County Council, Cllr John Keogh, said an event like Africa Day was "not just a social and cultural event, it is an educational event for all of us to learn and experience African culture and to bring something of that culture to our own lives."

"Just as important, though, is our efforts as a county to support communities who have made Ireland their home. There are challenges, but there are also opportunities. Such opportunities

can create employment and vitality to communities. In doing so, communities become richer, more tolerant, and better places to live and work in," Cllr Keogh concluded.

Director of services with Roscommon County Council, Chris Flynn, said County Roscommon and its communities "are fortified by a rich and diverse range of cultures and traditions."

"I welcome this opportunity to be associated with and embrace our African Community," he said. "By reaching out the hand of friendship, we have so much more to offer each other, to our communities, our workplaces and our clubs."



Fiona Ni Chuinn, Roscommon County Council; Shanette Budai, Dorothy Eshiwani, Nora Fahy, RWN; Chris Flynn, director of services, Roscommon County Council; Mary Thebe, RWN; Sharon Shally; and Sive Bresnihan at Áras an Chontae at the launch of plans for Africa Day.



Viktorija Gedvilaite, Lorraine Campbell, Hlonipheni Ncube, Karen Gavin, Ruth Wallace, Mary Thebe, Nora Fahy, Fiona Ni Chuinn, Osasumuwen Ali, and Brigella Tapera.



Osasumuwen Ali, Blessing Ugbah, Mary Thebe, and Dorothy Eshiwani, pictured at Áras an Chontae Roscommon at the launch of plans for Africa Day.



Catia Da Nova and Mary Thebe pictured at the launch of plans for Africa Day.

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